

## CLAIMS

1        1.        A carrier for supporting and carrying bags having handles, the carrier comprising:  
2                a handle including a gripping member constructed and arranged to be grasped by a user,  
3        an opening, a body portion, and a locking lip supported adjacent and below the opening on an  
4        outer surface of the body portion;  
5                a hook having a base extending from and supported by the handle, the base including a  
6        curvature constructed and arranged to support the handles of the carrying bag, the hook further  
7        including a rigid outer leg having a first end which extends from the curved base and a second  
8        end opposite the first end;  
9                a locking member having a first end supported by the second end of the outer leg, a  
10       second end engageable with the locking lip of the handle in order to lock the hook into a closed  
11       position during use, an inner surface, and an outer surface; and  
12                a release member constructed and arranged to release the locking member from  
13       engagement with the handle.

1        2.        The carrier of claim 1, wherein the locking member includes a curvature defined between  
2        the inner and outer surface which is inverted with respect to the base curvature of the hook.

1        3.        The carrier of claim 1, wherein the release member extends upward from the second end  
2        of the locking member, toward the handle, and is engageable by the thumb of the user while  
3        holding the gripping member.

4. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the handle, hook, locking member, and release member are formed as a single, unitary member.

5. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the gripping member further includes a hollow portion.

6. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the hook includes a generally "J" shaped configuration in the open position, defined by the outer leg and the curved base.

7. The carrier of claim 1, wherein the inner surface of the locking member extends over and engages the locking lip so as to secure the hook in the closed position.

8. The carrier of claim 1, wherein handle, hook and locking member are made of a generally rigid plastic material so that the carrier can support heavily weighted bags.

9. A carrier for supporting and carrying bags having handles, the carrier comprising:  
a handle including a gripping member constructed and arranged to be grasped by a user, an opening, a body portion, and a locking lip supported adjacent and below the opening on an outer surface of the body portion;

a hook having a base extending from and supported by the handle, the base including a curvature constructed and arranged to support the handles of the carrying bag, the hook further including a rigid outer leg having a first end which extends from the curved base and a second end opposite the first end;

a locking member having a first end supported by the second end of the outer leg, a second end engageable with the locking lip of the handle in order to lock the hook into a closed position during use, an inner surface, an outer surface, and a curvature defined between the inner and outer surface which is inverted with respect to the base curvature of the hook; and a release member constructed and arranged to release the locking member from engagement with the handle.

10. The carrier of claim 9, wherein the release member extends upward from the second end of the locking member, toward the handle, and is engageable by the thumb of the user while holding the gripping member.

11. The carrier of claim 9, wherein the handle, hook, locking member, and release member are formed as a single, unitary member.

12. The carrier of claim 9, wherein the gripping member further includes a hollow portion.

13. The carrier of claim 9, wherein the hook includes a generally “J” shaped configuration in the open position, defined by the outer leg and the curved base.

14. The carrier of claim 9, wherein the inner surface of the locking member extends over and engages the locking lip so as to secure the hook in the closed position.

1 15. The carrier of claim 9, wherein handle, hook and locking member are made of a generally  
2 rigid plastic material so that the carrier can support heavily weighted bags.